

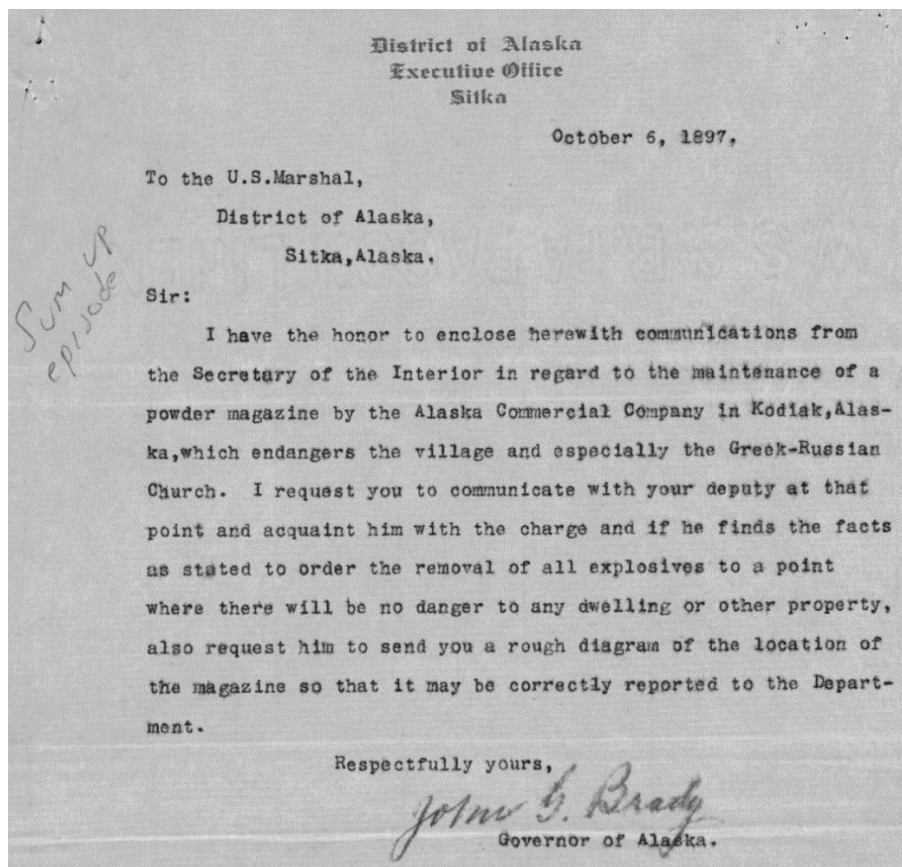
**ALASKA STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD**



**Juneau, Alaska**

**STRATEGIC PLAN  
2015 to 2020**

**Preserving Alaska's Documentary  
Heritage:  
Records Tell the Tale**



# ALASKA STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 to 2020

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB) believes that the collection and preservation of historical records, Alaska's priceless legacy, are fundamental to understanding our past and guiding our future.

The ASHRAB is an advisory body appointed by the Governor. ASHRAB has three basic responsibilities:

- ASHRAB serves as the *central advisory body* for historical records planning and for National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) funded projects developed and carried out within Alaska. NHPRC is the granting agency of the National Archives & Records Administration.
- ASHRAB works to preserve the State's documentary heritage by serving as a *coordinating body* that facilitates cooperation among historical records repositories, cultural heritage organizations, and other information agencies interested in preserving Alaska's historical records.
- ASHRAB functions as a *state-level review body* to assess proposals as defined in NHPRC grant program guidelines.

### MEMBERSHIP

ASHRAB consists of at least nine members:

- State Archivist, Board Coordinator and principal contact with NHPRC
- Chief, Office of History & Archaeology, Deputy Coordinator
- Native community representative
- Local government representative
- Other members who either work with historical records professionally, or who conduct historical research

State Archives staff provide administrative & technical assistance to the Board.

## **GOALS**

**Goal I. Develop an effective management and planning process to enhance the Board's ability to promote public awareness about the importance of archives and records preservation in Alaska.**

**Objective A. Strengthen the Board's ability to carry out its mission.**

- Regularly review and update the written mission statement that defines the Board's primary function and its activities
- Annually review and evaluate the Board's progress in carrying out its plan
- Seek statutory designation for the Board and state funding to support it

**Objective B. Review the Board's plan annually and update it every five years or as needed to meet Alaska's changing records collection and preservation needs.**

- Distribute the strategic plan to appropriate organizations and individuals

**Goal II. Structure the Board's activities to enhance its statewide profile.**

**Objective C. Conduct meetings a minimum of four times per year, with at least one face-to-face meeting.**

- Encourage public attendance and participation at meetings
- Strive to meet in communities other than Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau
- Utilize collaboration through the use of teleconferencing or videoconferencing to keep Board members informed of the progress of projects and other activities

**Objective D. Evaluate composition of the Board on a regular basis.**

- Make recommendations to the Governor's Office for individuals that would provide a broader background and ethnic diversity to the board to include:
  - Alaska Municipal Clerk's Association representative
  - Rural historical organization or society
  - Representative with records management experience
  - Representative from a tribal native entity

**Goal III. Support efforts in the preservation of Alaska's documentary heritage.**

**Objective E. Encourage the physical survival of Alaska's documentary heritage.**

- Develop and review studies and statistical data that describe the condition of records preservation in Alaska
- Work cooperatively with other Alaska organizations that deal with disaster response including Homeland Security and the State's CIO to ensure records recovery is considered in statewide disaster plans.
- Encourage local governments and organizations with records to develop site-specific disaster response plans
- Share available professional literature and promote storage standards for archival facilities
- Distribute guidelines about caring for local public records to local governments and recognized Tribal entities
- Provide records retention schedules to local governments and tribal entities as a model for the development of their schedules and archival programs

**Objective F. Encourage the collection of original source material.**

- Encourage private organizations and institutions to preserve their own records
- Prepare a list of Alaskan repositories to distribute to potential donors
- Encourage the donation of historical materials to appropriate repositories
- Encourage organizations without resources to store records or make them available for research to develop arrangements with major archives in Alaska

**Objective G. Seek to identify sources of funds in order to increase support for preserving records and making them available.**

- Publicize the NHPRC program and encourage institutions and organizations to apply for grants
- Encourage potential candidates to send preliminary NHPRC applications to the Board for evaluation and assistance prior to applying on-line
- Ask present and former Board members, staffs at archival institutions, and successful applicants to assist candidates with NHPRC proposals
- Draft project applications to submit to NHPRC including grants to strengthen local government records programs, to assist local historical organizations to prepare guides and finding aids to their collections, and to care for Native Alaskan records
- Seek funding to provide necessary match for NHPRC grants
- Request state funding to support the preservation of records
- Seek foundation funding for archival projects in Alaska

**Goal IV. Encourage collaborative efforts among Alaskan institutions to share information about records and records holdings.**

**Objective H. Develop relationships with organizations that manage collections to promote the involvement of the Board and NHPRC in records preservation.**

- Facilitate partnerships among cultural heritage organizations responsible for historical records
- Develop a working relationship with the Anchorage Chapter of ARMA (Association of Records Managers & Administrators)
- Promote a close working relationship between the State Archives and other state agencies whose operations affect archives and records management
- Encourage cooperative efforts and support from the major archival repositories and organizations in Alaska regarding records preservation
- Work cooperatively with individuals within the Alaska Native community who are concerned about the preservation of records
- Provide Alaska Native organizations with copies of annual reports, news releases, and other relevant information

- Encourage local organizations to use the professional expertise of the State Archives and other professional archival organizations within the state

**Goal V. Provide leadership in education, advocacy, and outreach for the management of archives; and, preservation, storage, and care of records.**

**Objective I. Contact records organizations to make them aware of available resources.**

- Sponsor training in core competencies for records creators and keepers
- Highlight grants funded, board services, and other events relevant to archives and records, distribute to newspapers, local historical societies and museums
- Actively seek positive public relations for the State Archives and the ASHRAB
- Draft and update kits, basic checklists, resource lists and other materials that can be readily available to the public
- Notify client organizations that the State Coordinator or designee is available for presenting talks on Alaska's records management and preservation of records
- Provide information through workshops on standards for facilities and disaster planning

**GOAL VI. Remain knowledgeable and utilize advances in communication and information technologies.**

**Objective J. Explore the use of technological advances.**

- Promote a greater understanding of electronic records, especially among small repositories
- Maintain a current web-page for the ASHRAB with basic resource information and links to related organizations
- Investigate posting kits, guidelines, manuals, and related materials on the web to increase accessibility to stakeholders throughout Alaska
- Promote technological advances for managing records

## STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES

In order to focus on historical records in Alaska, the State Historical Records Advisory Board has adopted this *Statement of Priorities*. This *Statement* reflects the Board's understanding of Alaska's current historical records issues and how to address them, either with National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) grants, or in other ways. The *Statement* is intended to focus broad activities for a five year period and may be reviewed or expanded by the Board at any time.

The Board reviews Alaskan grant applications (with the exception of Native American projects/programs, which are excluded by Presidential Executive Order) prior to NHPRC consideration and gives preference to proposals that accord closely with its *Statement of Priorities*. Applicants, however, should not consider the *Statement* to be exclusive. The Board encourages proposals when applicants demonstrate their importance, and the need for outside funding. The Board encourages Alaskans to support efforts that relate to the objectives of the Board's *Statement*. The Board also solicits solutions independent of NHPRC funding. The Board emphasizes project proposals that:

1. Identify, evaluate and preserve endangered archival records and manuscript resources with respect to:
  - a. Physical form (like nitrate negatives and electronic records);
  - b. Physical location (such as records housed in deteriorating buildings);
  - c. Physical storage space that will no longer be available.
2. Identify, preserve, arrange and describe archival records and manuscript resources.
3. Develop archival and manuscript resource guides, including an online electronic information system, to ensure and facilitate public access, with the following priorities:
  - a. Participation and collaboration by two or more entities.
  - b. A guide or descriptive list of a specific institution's major holdings.
  - c. A guide, series of guides, or finding aids to one or more collections in a repository.
4. Deliver educational programs that:
  - a. Train those who are not professional archivists but who administer archival records. This training could focus on the identification, preservation, arrangement, description and security of materials.
  - b. Increase organizational concern for and a greater public understanding and appreciation of records with permanent archival value.



- c. Increase the skills of archivists, especially in developing expanded records programs.
5. Create programs within an organization or shared by organizations, to demonstrate concepts, practices and benefits of archival records management. This could include creating a pilot project within a local government, museum, research center, historical society, union, business; and, social, political, and Native organization.
6. Fund an itinerant archivist to provide onsite assistance to an institution with limited resources.
7. Identify, arrange & describe privately held significant collections and make this information accessible to researchers online.
8. Integrate records and information management practices, especially inventory, appraisal for permanent retention, and/or scheduling within an archival or manuscript context.
9. Develop long-term preservation protocols for digital content.

### **General Criteria for Proposals**

1. Highest priority will be given projects of a statewide nature.
2. Projects of a collaborative nature between institutions with similar needs are encouraged.
3. The applying institution will participate in the costs, staffing, requirements and facilities required during the course of the project.
4. The institution has a successful history of completing its previous grants and/or projects.
5. The proposed project is consistent within the scope of the institution's mission.
6. The project will demonstrate good archival practices.
7. The project's contribution to historical research will be identified.
8. The proposal will include public outreach (e.g. worldwide web, newsletters, social media, etc.)

Adopted November 3, 1979  
First Revision March 9, 1989  
Second Revision July 27, 2011  
Third Revision October 1, 2014



## **Appendix A**

**ASHRAB will distribute its revised strategic plan and annual report to the following organizations:**

Anchorage Museum of History & Art  
Alaska & Polar Regions Collections & Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Anthropological Association Alaska Association for Historical Preservation  
Alaskana Collection, Anchorage Public Library  
Alaska Historical Collections, Statewide Library Archives & Museum  
Alaska Historical Society  
Alaska Humanities Forum  
Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks  
Alaska State Archives  
Alaska Library Association  
Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association  
Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository, Kodiak  
ARMA Chapter, Anchorage  
Archives & Special Collections, University of Alaska Anchorage  
Carrie McLain Museum, Nome  
Eagle Historical Society  
Gastineau Channel Historical Society, Juneau  
Isabel Miller Museum, Sitka  
Juneau Douglas City Museum  
Ketchikan Museum  
National Archives at Seattle  
Museums Alaska  
Northwest Archivists Association  
Pratt Museum, Homer  
Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau  
Sheldon Museum, Haines  
Skagway City Museum  
Valdez Community Museum & Archives

## Appendix B

### Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board Members

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## **Appendix C**

### **Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board Bylaws**

#### **Article 1. NAME.**

The name of this organization is the Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board, hereafter known as ASHRAB.

#### **Article II. AUTHORITY.**

ASHRAB is a state board, appointed by the Governor, under the authority of federal statutes [44 USC Chapter 25] and regulations [36 CFR Part 1206] governing the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) program of the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA).

#### **Article III. MEMBERSHIP.**

ASHRAB consists of at least nine members. The Governor appoints members for three year, renewable terms. A majority of members shall have recognizable experience in the administration of records, manuscripts, or archives. The board should, as far as is practicable, broadly represent public and private archives, records offices, and research institutions and organizations in the state. The Alaska board includes the State Archivist, the Chief of the Office of History & Archaeology and one representative each of Native organizations and local government records agencies or their designee.

#### **Article IV. STATE COORDINATOR.**

The Governor appoints the State Archivist as ASHRAB State Coordinator as required by NHPRC regulation. The State Coordinator or designee shall represent ASHRAB in state and national forums, and acts as meeting convenor and secretariat. The State Coordinator is a member of ASHRAB and serves a renewable four-year term. The coordinator shall appoint a deputy. The deputy assists in carrying out the duties of the coordinator and serves as acting coordinator at the coordinator's discretion or other inability to serve.

#### **Article V. DEFINITION.**

The term *record* as used by these *Bylaws* includes textual, non-textual, machine readable, electronic and other documentary materials, regardless of origin, physical form or characteristics.

## **Article VI. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of ASHRAB are to:

- A. Maintain and disseminate a statement of goals and priorities for historical records programs in Alaska;
- B. Advise on matters pertaining to collection and preservation of historically significant records;
- C. Endorse projects that address established goals and policies;
- D. Encourage communications among organizations having archives and/or records management interests, defining areas of mutual concern to support comprehensive collection of Alaskan historical records and to minimize duplication of efforts;
- E. Review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the NHPRC grant program, concerning applications from organizations and institutions based in Alaska;
- F. Promote and publicize the NHPRC grant program, encouraging participation;
- G. Provide grant consultation, assisting grant applicants in preparing proposals;
- H. Develop grant applications to address historical records issues of statewide concern;
- I. Review proposed legislation concerning public or historical records administration, advise on its applicability and potential effects, and recommend legislation when appropriate;
- J. Support programs designed to promote public awareness of historical records values, conditions and needs;
- K. Conduct studies to better define historical records conditions and problems in Alaska, proposing solutions;
- L. Foster and support cooperative networks for conservation, bibliographic control, and public access for historical records topics;
- M. Expand educational opportunities, coordinating with academic institutions to develop or expand records management and archives course offerings;

## **Article VII. PROGRAM SCOPE.**

ASHRAB's program, scope and interests relate, but are not limited to, records documenting the history and heritage of Alaska and its people held by the following entities in Alaska:

- State government
- Cultural organizations
- Local governments
- Historical organizations
- Native Americans
- Professional associations
- Ethnic groups and organizations
- Academic institutions
- Religious denominations
- Libraries & museums
- Business & industries

## **Article VIII. GRANT APPLICATIONS PRIORITIES.**

Grant priorities will be in accordance with the statement of priorities adopted by ASHRAB. ASHRAB may revise the statement of priorities at any time by majority vote.

## **Article IX. RECOMMENDATIONS ON GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

Recommendations shall follow procedures established by the NHPRC for grant application review.

## **Article X. MEETINGS & RECORDS.**

ASHRAB shall meet at least two times each year to review grant applications and conduct other business. Other meetings may be called at the initiation of the State Coordinator or by any three other ASHRAB members. All meetings are subject to the provisions of the *Open Meetings Act* under AS 44.62.310. Official ASHRAB records are maintained by the State Coordinator and are subject to provisions of *Public Records Disclosures* under AS 40.25.120.

## **Article XI. QUORUM.**

Five members of ASHRAB constitute a quorum for the purpose of meeting and conducting business.

## **Article XII. COMMITTEES.**

The State Coordinator appoints such Committees as are necessary to effect the purposes and programs of the NHPRC

## **Article XIII. RULES OF ORDER.**

The most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* serves as parliamentary authority.

## **Article XIV. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS.**

Proposed amendments to these *Bylaws* must be sent to the ASHRAB members at least thirty (30) days in advance of a scheduled meeting. Discussion of proposed amendments shall appear as a separate item on the meeting's agenda. Passage of amendments requires a two thirds vote of ASHRAB members present and voting.

**Adopted 9/25/2013**